

## Andrew Jackson to Mary Eastin, October 24, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO MARY EASTIN.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> N. Y. Hist. Soc. Mary Eastin was a niece of Mrs. Jackson.

Washington, October 24, 1830.

*My D'r Mary:* At length a leisure moment this good sabath night has offered, and I take up my pen to drop you a hasty line.

We have been here since the night of the 25th ulto. and accept from my old friend judge Overton and Col. Love I have not recd. a single line from any of my other friends. Major Donelson has recd. several from Emily, and informs me you all enjoy health. As usual I am crowded with business and office Hunters. Many friends call to see me, and the ladies have been very kind, altho, Mrs. Watson has never been to see me nor one of the family. We are getting on prosperously with our national concerns, and Danl Donelson was joined in holy wedlock to Miss Margaret on the 19th it having been posponed by the sickness and death of her unkle Mr. Southall.<sup>2</sup> They left here the next morning for New York, will return in a few days. My son went with them to Philadelphia.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Donelson married Margaret, daughter of John Branch, Secretary of the Navy. He was a brother of Maj. A. J. Donelson.

Major Donelson has informed you that the House appears lonesome, and on his account it would give me great pleasure that you and Emily with the sweet little ones were here. I have often experienced in life the privation of leaving my D'r wife, when contending against

## Library of Congress

poverty, seeking for a competency, therefore can feel for him. But I fear if you were here the disagreeable scenes heretofore experienced might be acted over again, of which I hear, and see, great symptoms, which nothing when you come here, can prevent, but a determined resolution and energy in Emily and you, and a duty to myself and my friend Major Eaton will require me to have observed, and which Emily has promised me that when she comes she will observe.

I shall forever much regret that Emily and you did not at first pursue my advice. it was then in your power I knew to have kept from my doors and put down, that wicked political combination of slanderers, and to have prevented those disagreeable consequences that have ensued, and by the easy mode of extending equal civilities to all and particularly to the heads of departments and their families. You both knew Eaton was my steadfast friend and the able defender of your dear aunt when assailed by these wicked political monsters, and I further told you that the stroke was only ostensibly against Eaton, when levelled thro' him at me. I then knew it, and after finding the combination began and engendered here extending to Nashville with Doctor McNairy and Mrs. R. in the van, it confirmed me in this well founded opinion, and the late letter published in the Lexington Reporter is proof as strong as holy writ, and what was the most cruel thing of all, my own connections included in this unholy wicked and unjust conspiracy against female character, by which I was to be reached, and the memory of my D'r wife, who ought to have been dear to all her connections, indirectly or directly assailed.

I have long knew the hypocrite who was at the bottom of this, secretly wielding his pupits, afraid to act in open day. His hand is seen in the letters from Washington, as well as those from Nashville, but he will fail in this, as he has before when he attempted to stab me in the dark, when to my face and to the public, crying out he was my friend and would support me. These acts will recoil upon his and his wicked agents head and fall harmless at the feet of those whose injury he has been seeking. I now think it proper to bring this to Emily and your view, for I hope you will come together when you do come, that you may well consider whether you can when you come here assume that energetic, dignified

## Library of Congress

and independent course, that will shake from you, the particular association and attention of those, to the exclusion of friends, that have been the cause, of inducing you to spurn my advice, which has been the cause of so much disquietude to me, and has lead to a division of my house, where the advice of the head ought, and must govern, with the wicked purpose in view of leading to my distruction. This tho, was under the hypocritical garb of friendship, that imposed upon Emily and you, unacquainted with the arts of the experienced in calumny, and of political intrigue, altho well understood by me, and who, I now find where I expected them, associating with my worst enemies.

I have therefore only to add, that it would give me much pleasure to see you both here, provided you will pursue my advice, and assume that dignified course that ought to have been at first adopted, of treating every one with attention, and extending the same comity and attention to all the heads of Departments, and their families which is the only course that my situation can permit. This will be a task that will require great firmness and energy, for you may rest assured that these satanic combinations having once got your ears, when you arrive will surround you with redoubled vigor and earnestness, knowing as they do, that it is the only hope for success, to create a seperation between my household, by which they may hope to turn it to my injury, and so soon as they can accomplish their object, would wheel upon and if possible destroy you, for those wicked ones who live and thrive upon slander, and are base enough to assail female character for political views, will stop at nothing.

With these remarks I conclude, it will afford me pleasure to see you here, under a determination to adopt and pursue the course here pointed out. without such determination your own good sense will dictate to you both, the propriety of not coming until such arrangements are made here, to secure harmony for the future. better to put up with the seperation for a short time than to come on and introduce again those scenes here that has cost me so much pain, which first and last has almost destroyed me, and this too produced by my dearest friends, uniting with and pursuing the advice of my worst enemies. This is what I cannot again indure. I have never asked any sacrafice of either

## Library of Congress

of you, I never will, but I have a right to expect my advice in my own House and to my own family will be obeyed, and that is only that the same comity will be extended to all the families of the Heads of Departments and to all others and that my enemies will not be my families associates in exclusion of my long tried and sincere friends, Those who have been conselling you to your ruin. and inducing you to believe it is meritorious to disobey my admonitions and follow theirs and thereby destroying the Harmony of my family. Keep clear of the slanderers, they are always dangerous, with a resolution to conform to the rule laid down here which was the only one ever required by me and I will be more than happy to see you here. One word more, has judge Overton, Randal McGavock, Lemuel Donelson, General Coffee, and thousand more injured their standing and character by associating with Major Eaton and his family. I think not. But the persecutor and slanderers will always meet their reward sooner or later and all who associates with them.

Present my kind compliments to Emily, kiss Jackson and Mary Rachel for me and shew her this letter. altho written in haste it is intended for her due consideration, and accept for yourself my best wishes and believe me your friend.

P. S. You will receive by Genl Donelson a small present, as a remembrance, it is sent as you have no parents to provide for you, it has been selected by our mutual friend Major Lewis who sends his compliments to you and Mrs. Donelson.